

OREGON TUALATIN VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



An ARRL Special Service Club

October 1989

Next Meeting October 11, 1989

Words from the President

By Ray Deeth, K7VDQ

Vacations are over for parents with school children and those who are returning to institutions of higher learning. Of course you know fall is here with cooler evenings as well as the many school activities filling the calendars. Then here comes OTVARC and other neighboring Ham Clubs filling in the vacant dates. There are many people who are attempting to build their saving accounts by playing the new lottery game, "SPORTS ACTION" on NFL football games with hopes of making a profit to acquire the HAM equipment one viewed at the summer HAM fairs. Why it is only three months to Christmas!!

In spite of all the above hustle and bustle, the last meeting still showed lots of enthusiasm among the membership to begin OTVARC'S forthcoming events. The election committee starting to prepare the election ballot and the HOLIDAY FESTIVAL program seems to be gaining momentum. The real excitement of a Scholarship Program being established for young and aspiring HAMs to further their education. It was really great to see how many showed interest in the club trailer which was on display outside the meeting hall at the last meeting.

It has come to my attention that OTVARC members traveling with the staff on the "CYCLE OREGON" public service event was one long grueling 400 miles which started in Portland and ended in Ashland, Oregon. Many long hours - Up at 5am and on the road by 6am. Activities didn't stop until around 7pm to 8pm in the evening. I understand it was a rewarding as well as a good learning experience in providing such a large communication service utilizing Amateur Radio repeaters on a moving public service venture.

In my liaison with management of the Beaverton Elks Club, they informed me of their need for communications to assist in coordinating the courtesy car transportation during the ELKS MID-WINTER Convention being hosted by the local Elks club. The dates of the convention are October 12-14, 1989. There will be an organizational meeting at the ELKS October 2 or 3, 1989, at which time KZ7T and myself will attend to determine if amateur radio

can benefit their logistic project for the convention.

During the month of September I had several HAM friends visiting me from the East Coast (Virginia) who are active members in their respective areas. I gave them a copy of the OTVARC newsletter and were impressed with the quality of printing and contents of our publication. They immediately could see how active our club is in the community with amateur radio in which they indicated their club would seem dull compared to OTVARC.

Keep smiling and looking forward to seeing all of you at the October meeting.

Stanley Hamm on Contesting

By Stan Griffiths, W7NI

I took up contesting for the action, the fun, and the feeling of success that can be derived from this exciting activity. The "Feeling of Success" is a very important part and is largely in the attitude of the participant. What I mean is this: You and I may participate in the same contest and attain equal scores. I may feel good about my participation and you may feel bad about yours. It all has to do with setting goals and what your expectations are. Setting reasonable goals often is the key to whether or not you consider yourself a success and everyone knows success is fun and failure is not!

Another key to enjoying contesting is feeling good about the way you (and others) operate. It's no different in radio contesting than it is in any other sport: Good sportsmanship is expected of every participant. So what is good sportsmanship in a radio contest?

Probably the very best indicator is the Golden Rule: "Do unto others..." Common sense is another good indicator. Have you been in a contest where someone does something that irritates the hell out of you? I'm sure you have, if you have ever been in a contest. Do you ever do that same thing back to him or someone else "to get even"? If you do that's probably poor sportsmanship and your probably not going to enjoy contesting nor is anyone going to miss you when you take up jogging instead.

(Continued on page 3)

DX For Beginners And Others

By Greg Milnes, W7AGQ

A while back, I extolled the virtues of the DX Bulletin. You may recall this is a weekly (all right so its only 50 times a year, let's allow Chod a vacation) DX newsletter or bulletin if you prefer. It is published out of Santa Rosa, California and lists hot DX news of expeditions and other operations, together with propagation and other news.

Maybe the best part of the DX Bulletin is the Bandpass section which lists the date and time certain DX stations were worked and from what state. It is broken down into CW and SSB as well as some RTTY info.

About 9 months ago the DX Bulletin started putting out the "DX Magazine". This is a full sized, slick cover publication with great DX coverage. If you interested in DX but not quite up to a weekly bulletin, you just might want to try the newest, and I think best publication in the field.

The August 1989 issue has a great DXpedition picture on the cover...tents, two beams, wire antennas, sand, ocean and lots and lots of birds. I think this is view from the January 1989 trip to Mellish Reef (VK9ZM) or possibly Willis Island (VK9ZW).

What could a monthly magazine have to present I wondered when I received the first issue. 9 issues later I wonder no more. Let me just mention the table of contents. Chod Harris, VP2ML/W6 (or is it W6/VP2ML?) leads off with an editorial about the virtues of Walvis Bay becoming a new DX country (surrounded by Namibia and separated from South Africa it may qualify).

The lead article is a excellent story of the aforementioned DXpedition to Mellish and Willis. I really liked the next piece listed in the index. It is some real life experiences with Bobtail Curtain Arrays on 80 meters. K2KIR just tells it like it is without falling all over himself to extol the virtues of the greatest antenna since the double extended mini wangdoozler.

I was a little chagrinned with the 10 myths of DX. I thought some of them were true. Oh well, you win some and you lose some. I'd tell you what the 10 myths were but I don't have permission from Chod and the magazine is copyrighted.

John Attaway (great name), K4IIF, has a fine article on DX contests and give some great hints for some upcoming events. Chod has enticed the "GO List" folks, Jay and Jan W6GO and K6HHD to present regular articles on QSLing. The final articles are on propagation, DX Awards, letters, and DX Clubs.

The magazine has lots and lots of pictures, some charts and graphs and some advertising that really sets up the "dream cycle." Even if you are not in there chasing DX at the present, the magazine makes great reading. It is very well done and will put you way ahead when you are able to get on.

The August issue was 32 pages and well worth the \$1.95 cover price. A subscription is \$15 and might be a little less in conjunction with the DX Bulletin (I don't remember and I sent my price list in yesterday with my renewal for both publications).

I'll be glad to get the information to you, just give me a call. By the way, I am not on the payroll. I just like to talk about super things I run into from time to time. In the near future I'll be reviewing the N7CTY HAM Programs for those of you who are into computer things or just want to hear about a local effort (based in Cornelius).

Please, please get on the air or at least listen soon. We are really getting into the increased sunspot cycle now. If you don't get on, you'll be kicking yourself in a few years. Remember, Spring and Fall are when the DX contests are held. Why then you ask? It's because those are the best DX seasons of the year.

73 and 88 (where appropriate).

How Sharp Are You?

By Jeff Durr, KA7AKU

I hope you did well on last months questions. I received one correction on question 9 (see letter on page 5, but don't peek at this months answers). So here we go with this months quiz:

- 1) What type of semiconductor is called a FET?
- 2) A Balun is used for _____.
- 3) VHF stands for _____.
- 4) UHF stands for _____.
- 5) Which is higher, VHF or UHF?
- 6) QRM stands for _____.
- 7) A quarter wave vertical antenna emits a pattern which looks like a _____. (Hint: you might eat this for breakfast)
- 8) What is the call sign of the OTVARC Vice President.

(Answers on page 5)

(Stanley Ham, continued from page 1)

Here's an example of something that really irritates me in a contest: I've been calling CQ and working one station after another for several minutes on the same frequency. One of the stations I work decided he wants to work everyone I have worked so he opens up with a CQ on my frequency! Not good sportsmanship!

Of course nobody owns a frequency. It's sort of a first come, first served. This is not the same as finders keepers, losers weepers. If a station has established itself on a frequency by calling a series of CQ's and working a new station every few minutes, it is considered "his frequency" until he relinquishes it. So when is it ok to jump in and claim the frequency for your own? In practice, a good contest operator would probably say something like the following:

"CQ contest, CQ contest, CQ contest. W7NI. Whiskey Seven November India listening." This takes about 8 seconds at a brisk pace. The good tester would then listen for about 5 seconds (or less, if he is called by another station). At the end of 5 seconds, he would repeat the CQ sequence. If he pauses for say, 10 seconds instead of 5, I'd say it's anybody's frequency and he has no complaint if someone else calls CQ there.

Assuming he has already worked the new station now calling CQ, he has two choices. Wait for a 10 second gap or find a new frequency. Rule of thumb: If you're not ready to give up the frequency, don't leave any 10 second gaps. Leave a few seconds, though, so someone can answer you.

Let's say you've called CQ 10 or 15 times with no results. You need to change tactics. First, since you're not getting any practical use out of that frequency, you should give it up to someone else, and second, there may be a new crop of stations on a different frequency just waiting for you. When you change frequency, be sure to check that it's not already in use by listening for at least 10 seconds or so. To save time, you can simply ask "is this frequency in use?" If it is, you will be told very quickly. Work the station occupying the frequency, if you haven't already, and move on.

Everything in this article applies to virtually all radio contest, HF or VHF, Phone or CW. The CW equivalent to asking if a frequency is in use is "QRL?" which literally means "are you busy?"

There are many examples of good and poor sportsmanship that I will describe in future articles assuming space available. - W7NI



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Who Needs Me?

By Ray Deeth, K7VDQ

IMAGINE A WORLD WITHOUT VOLUNTEERS:

No hospital "candy stripers." No meals on Wheels for the elderly. No church coffee hours. No food Pantries. No community blood banks. No shelters for the homeless. No parent-teacher associations. No Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, 4-H Clubs. No Sunday school teachers. No volunteer fire departments. No polling booth service. No Big Brother/Big Sister Organizations. No OTVARC.

As you can see by the above list, our society would definitely suffer if there were no one to volunteer. It's difficult to conceive of our country devoid of the voluntary contributions we make toward one another. Put in dollars terms, we'd come up with a \$150 billion shortfall in service in one year. Put in terms of people and hours, that's 80 million adults giving 15 billion hours of formal volunteering (involving specific time commitments to organizations) and nearly 5 billion hours of informal volunteering (helping neighbors or providing assistance on an ad hoc basis to organizations).

Without the efforts and contributions of volunteers, our country's economy and social structure would be vastly different. Government could never fill the gap. Our country would be a far more desolate, inhospitable place in which to live.

I do hope this years executive board has made the joy of volunteering contagious. I know it shows on the faces of the board members and the fact is every general meeting there is always someone who volunteers to promote the fraternity of HAM radio in some way. Volunteers: who needs them? Each of us, every day.

Thoughts for volunteers and those whose lives they brighten: Some say if only my fears and doubts will leave then I will get to work. But instead you should get to work and then your fears and doubts will leave.

D.L. Moody

Timely good deeds are nicer than after-thoughts. The smallest good deed is better than the grandest intention.
Anonymous

It is ever true that he who does nothing for others does nothing for himself.

J.W. von Goethe

Those who bring sunshine to the lives of others cannot help keep it from themselves.

J. Barrie

Some facts to consider on the subject of service:

An estimated 45 percent of American adults volunteer.

The 35-44 age bracket has the highest proportion (54 percent) of volunteers.

More than 25 percent of all volunteers give five or more hours per week.

Most volunteers do so because they want to do something useful.

Those who volunteer tend to give twice as much to charity as those who do not volunteer.

S-imple as an outstretched hand.
E-nergetic as a bike-a-thon.
R-esourceful as a clothing drive.
V-ibrant as a community band concert.
I-maginative as a talent auction.
C-onsiderate as a listening ear.
E-nabling as a literacy center.

My source: "Giving and Volunteering in the United States: Findings From A National Survey," independent sector, Washington, D.C., 1988. Also quotes from a fraternal insurance publication, Appleton, WI. Please review the above information and again ask yourself the question, "Imagine a world without volunteers."

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

October

Donna Black

4 H Club - Guide Dog Training

November

Larry Stuker

F.C.C. Public Affairs

Upcoming Events

October 13 - 14 OTVARC Travelers at Mt. Hood RV Park

November 17 - 18 OTVARC Travelers at Depoe Bay - Holiday RV Park

(Please notify the editor of upcoming activities or events so all club members can be informed.)

To The Editor

(Letters, comments and suggestions are always welcome)

About the quiz, "How sharp are you?" Good deal. Keep it up. However, the answer to question 9 just borders on the truth. While the Watt, a current of one amp thru one ohm of resistance with a voltage of one volt, it is a unit of electrical power - not energy.

There is a fine dividing line but the factor of time is involved in the definition of energy.

The Joule and Erg are the units of energy or work and a Joule is 10^6 Ergs. Practically, it is the energy expended in one second of time by a current of one ampere at a potential of one volt.

When we get into Watts per hour or Kilowatt Hours - that's a different ball of wax.

73 de Floyd Passmore, W7KLE

For Sale

ICOM IC-2AT Hand Held. Like new, in original box with accessories, words perfect. \$165.00. I can bring it to the next OTVARC meeting. Ron, W7YOW

Answers to this months quiz on page 2:

- (1) Field Effect Transistor
- (2) Antenna to transmission line impedance match-
- (3) Very High Frequency
- (4) Ultra High Frequency
- (5) UHF
- (6) Man made noise or interference.
- (7) Donut
- (8) WB7FJC

OREGON TUALATIN VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Executive Board

Feel free to contact the Board of OTVARC to answer any questions you may have on anything.

President:	Ray Deeth	K7VDQ	324-4502
Vice Pres:	Janet Bell	WB7FJC	648-4147
Secretary:	Steve Coan	KA7MOW	646-5271
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Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month at the Beaverton Elks Lodge, 3500 S.W. 104th Avenue, Beaverton, Oregon. Meetings begin at 7:00 P.M. following a buffet dinner served at 6:15 P.M.

All correspondence other than for this newsletter should be sent to: Oregon Tualatin Valley Amateur Radio Club, Post Office Box 5132, Aloha, Oregon 97006-0132.

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